Docket No.: R2184.0312/P312

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Hiroyoshi Funato et al.

Application No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: DIFFRACTION GRATING, METHOD OF PRODUCING IT, METHOD OF DUPLICATING IT, OPTICAL HEAD DEVICE EMPLOYING IT AND OPTICAL DISK DRIVE APPARATUS EMPLOYING THE OPTICAL HEAD DEVICE

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 46 of this paper.